

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (New): A composition comprising:

cinnamic acid, and

at least one solid or liquid carrier, and optionally,

a dispersant or solubilizer.

Claim 19 (New): The composition of claim 18, which comprises a solid carrier.

Claim 20 (New): The composition of claim 19, wherein said solid carrier comprises at least one of dextrin, zeolite or silica.

Claim 21 (New): The composition of claim 19, wherein said solid carrier is soil and the concentration of cinnamic acid in said composition ranges from 0.0001 to 0.2 parts by weight of cinnamic acid to 100 parts by weight of soil.

Claim 22 (New): The composition of claim 18, which comprises a liquid carrier.

Claim 23 (New): The composition of claim 22, wherein said liquid carrier is water.

Claim 24 (New): The composition of claim 22, wherein said liquid carrier comprises water and an organic solvent.

Claim 25 (New): The composition of claim 18, which contains at least one dispersant.

Claim 26 (New): The composition of claim 25, wherein said at least one dispersant is at least one lignin sulfonate and/or carboxymethylcelloose.

Claim 27 (New): The composition of claim 25, wherein said at least one dispersant comprises a condensed phosphate.

Claim 28 (New): The composition of claim 25, wherein said at least one dispersant comprises a polymer.

Claim 29 (New): The composition of claim 25, wherein said at least one dispersant comprises a non-ionic surfactant.

Claim 30 (New): The composition of claim 25, wherein said at least one dispersant comprises an anionic surfactant.

Claim 31 (New): The composition of claim 25, wherein said at least one dispersant comprises a cationic surfactant.

Claim 32 (New): The composition of claim 25, wherein said at least one dispersant comprises an amphoteric surfactant.

Claim 33 (New): The composition of claim 18, which comprises at least one solubilizer which increases the solubility of cinnamic acid in an aqueous solution above 0.546 g/L.

Claim 34 (New): The composition of claim 33, wherein the concentration of cinnamic acid is 25 weight % or less.

Claim 35 (New): The composition of claim 33, wherein the concentration of cinnamic acid is above 0.546 g/L.

Claim 36 (New): The composition of claim 33, wherein said solubilizer is an alkaline solubilizer.

Claim 37 (New): The composition of claim 33, wherein said solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of tripolyphosphate salts, polyphosphate salts, phosphate salts, pyrophosphate salts, monohydrogen phosphate salts, dihydrogenphosphatesalts, carbonate salts, monohydrogen carbonate salts, and acetate salts, hydroxides.

Claim 38 (New): The composition of claim 33, wherein said at least one solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of tripolyphosphate salts, hydroxides, carbonate salts and acetate salts.

Claim 39 (New): The composition of Claim 33, wherein said solubilizer is at least one selected from the group consisting of:

a tripolyphosphate salt selected from the group consisting of sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium triphosphate and ammonium triphosphate;

a hydroxide selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and ammonium hydroxide;

a carbonate salt selected from the group consisting of potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate and ammonium carbonate; and

an acetate salt selected from the group consisting of potassium acetate, sodium acetate and ammonium acetate.

Claim 40 (New): A composition comprising:

0.5 to 25 wt.% cinnamic acid,

35 to 300 wt.% of a solubilizer based on the weight of the cinnamic acid, and

an aqueous solvent;

wherein the cinnamic acid is dissolved in the aqueous solvent in an amount that exceeds the maximum amount of cinnamic acid that can be dissolved in water at room temperature.

Claim 41 (New): A method for producing the composition of claim 18, comprising:

mixing cinnamic acid with a solid or liquid carrier, optionally in the presence of a dispersant and/or a solubilizer.

Claim 42 (New): A method of producing the composition of claim 18, comprising:

dissolving cinnamic acid in an aqueous solution in the presence of an alkaline solubilizer.

Claim 43 (New): A method of dwarfing a young plant, comprising:  
applying the composition of claim 18 to said plant in a ratio of 0.0001 to 0.2 parts by  
weight of cinnamic acid to 100 parts by weight of soil in which said young plant is reared.

Claim 44 (New): A plant to which the composition of claim 18 has been applied.

Claim 45 (New): The plant of claim 44, which is selected from the group consisting  
of poinsettia, geranium, hydrangea, chrysanthemum, lily, morning glory and petunia.

Claim 46 (New): The plant of claim 44, which is selected from the group consisting  
of Chinese cabbage, cabbage, carrot, green onion, onion, ging-geng-cai, Japanese radish,  
lettuce, field peas, cauliflower, broccoli, burdock, radish, turnip, tomato, cucumber, eggplant,  
squash, watermelon, prince melon, *Cucumis melo* var. *makuwa*, and melon.